



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 30, 2000

H.R. 4249 **Cross-Border Cooperation and Environmental Safety in** **Northern Europe Act of 2000**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
on July 28, 2000*

H.R. 4249 would earmark \$4 million for spending in 2001 on environmental cleanup or other activities in the Baltic countries and Russia. In addition, the act would require the Secretary of State to report to the Congress on the threat to the environment in Northern Europe and Asia posed by Russian nuclear reactors, waste, and contamination. The spending would come from either new appropriations for 2001 or unobligated balances of appropriations provided before 2001.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4249 would cost \$4 million over the next five years, assuming the appropriation of the necessary amounts for 2001. Because the act could affect direct spending if the funding comes from unobligated balances, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. In that case, however, CBO estimates that there would be no net change in total long-run outlays and a negligible change in any year because the pattern of spending under H.R. 4249 would not differ much from that under current law.

H.R. 4249 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

On May 15, 2000, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 4249, as ordered reported by the House Committee on International Relations. The two versions of the legislation are identical, as are the two estimates.

The CBO staff contact is Joseph C. Whitehill. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.